

## **WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Spring Creek Restoration and Riparian Enhancement**
2. Name of applicant: **David Karl, WDFW Watershed Steward, Snake Region**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **Dave Karl PO Box 456 Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 527-4138**
4. Date checklist prepared: **July 30, 2009**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **WDFW**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **August 19, 2009 through 2010**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
**Not at this time**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. WDFW added 187 acres to the Wooten Wildlife Area in April 2009 by purchasing the Murphy Russell property. The newly acquired property has an important spring fed (~2-3cfs) tributary of the Tucannon that historically was utilized by rearing Spring Chinook and Steelhead. The spring tributary has a culvert approximately 100 meters from the Tucannon River that is a fish passage barrier to nearly ½ mile of off channel rearing habitat. Additionally, the spring tributary habitat has been degraded by livestock use and will benefit from work to enhance stream complexity, large wood, pools, etc. Additionally, the project will include riparian enhancement along the Tucannon River.

#### Project objectives

- ✓ Restore fish passage at the existing culvert by removing material at the upstream end and elevating the exit pool.
- ✓ Restore spring channel complexity, adding pools with large wood and cobbles, multiple channels ranging from runs/glides to higher velocity riffled reaches.
- ✓ Remove car bodies, and other junk dumped in the floodplain and riparian along the Tucannon River, transport scrap for recycling.
- ✓ Plant willow and cottonwood in areas disturbed by the project and in reaches that lack proper riparian function and shade.
- ✓ Plant riparian enhancement plots (Tucannon R)

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. WDFW Staff is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on the spring restoration and riparian enhancement under a BPA HIP Programmatic Permit. Cultural resource surveys are being completed for the riparian enhancement and the spring restoration does not require a survey, but will require an onsite monitor. A JARPA is completed for an HPA and County permitting.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. Permits needed for the proposed project are an HPA, ACOE 404 permit, Cultural resource, HIP Programmatic, county shorelines.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Spring Restoration: A culvert, located on the spring creek, approximately 100 m from the Tucannon River is currently a fish passage barrier. The project includes removing large rock and cobble from the upstream and downstream end of the culvert and hand placing natural wood elements and cobble to create two small "lift" pools below the culvert. The purpose of the "lift" pools is to backwater the culvert by an additional ~ 2-3 inches of stream flow. The work will mostly be done by hand, although the use of a mini-excavator may be required at the upstream end of the culvert. Approximately 700 meters of spring creek will be treated in the following manner: Large wood pieces, a size that can be carried by two people will be placed throughout the spring to enhance available cover for fish and encourage pool formation. Some large cobble will be moved by hand to enhance

pool depth and stream hydraulics associated with wood placement. Small ½ meter/sq holes will be dug adjacent to the spring and partially filled with soil/compost mix, rooted water birch, black cottonwoods, and dogwoods will be planted in the soil mixture and the capped with the native substrate. Temporary fencing will be placed around the trees to provide protection from browsing for 3-4 years to improve plant survival. The terminal end of the spring meanders through approximately 20 meters of a cobble bar deposited by the Tucannon River. The cobble bar is within the ordinary high water mark and is under water during less than bankfull flows that occur during winter and spring months. A large woody debris LWD structure or logjam will be constructed at the terminal end of the spring. The structure will be constructed in the cobble bar area and not in connection with the Tucannon River wetted perimeter. A large pool will be dug using a 160 series or larger excavator, excavation will occur from the bank, essentially in the dry. Key trees will be placed in the pool and partially buried to construct a foundation for the engineered log-jam, additional large wood and trees will be racked into the jam resulting in a large wood structure that extends upstream into the spring creek roughly 30 feet. The resulting pool and LWD will provide improved access for juvenile salmonids into the spring branch and winter habitat for salmonids in the Tucannon River. Winter habitat and off channel rearing opportunities are two major limiting factors for ESA listed salmonids in the Tucannon Basin, and have been identified as high priorities under the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan. The area of the spring is in the Tucannon Flood plain and has some car bodies and general junk (i.e. washing machines, freezers) that will be removed and transported for recycling. The junk will be removed, leveled and planted with native trees and shrubs.

Riparian Enhancement: The project includes excavating irregular shaped (~ 10 m/sq) plots up to 2 feet deep. The project is designed to establish riparian growth on the Southwest bank of a newly established channel of the Tucannon River in the Washington State Wooten Wildlife Area. The plots will be filled with a soil/compost mixture and planted with native trees and shrubs (a combination of rooted stock and cuttings) and capped with the native substrate. The plots will be partially filled with soil/compost; therefore there will be excess native substrate that will be spread level to the riparian plots. The plots will be temporarily fenced to protect young trees from excessive browsing. There are 9 riparian plots designated for the project that run adjacent to an old river channel that was recaptured in the winter 2008-9. The recaptured channel does not have much riparian growth adjacent to it, and it is located in a stream reach that was badly burned in the 2005 School Fire. The project is intended to enhance riparian along the new channel for improved shade, bank stability, and natural habitat.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. The project will occur within the boundaries of the Washington State Wooten Wildlife Area. Township 9N, Range 41E, Sections 1,2,3, 10 &15. Township 10N, Range 41E, Sections 13,14,16,21,22,23,26,27,34,35,36. A map of the Project sites for LWD structures attached with lat/long GPS readings for each site.

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## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **no slope**
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **Sediment, sand, gravel, and cobble (basalt)**
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **Soils are stabilizing after a catastrophic fire in 2005.**
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **None**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Some temporary minor erosion could occur from wood structures placed, all disturbed areas will be revegetated with native plants**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **No impervious surface will be constructed in this project.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Disturbed areas will be revegetated with native grasses and trees.**

## **2. Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **The only emissions would result from the use of machinery for construction.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **None**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None**

**3. Water****a. Surface:**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **Yes, The Tucannon River and small spring tributaries and associated wetlands.**
  
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. **Yes, most of the project will be done by hand and a small 80's series mini track hoe with rubber track. A large LWD logjam will be constructed at the mouth of the spring creek. A large pool will be excavated and the logjam will be constructed in it. The logjam will provide better access to the spring for juvenile salmonids and provide excellent winter habitat for fish in the Tucannon River. Winter habitat is very limited on the Tucannon R. The large pool and logjam will be constructed using a 160 series track hoe and the work will be done from the bank and in the dry.**
  
- 2) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. **No fill material will be used in this project. Large wood will be placed in the stream to provide complex fish habitat. The project is part of salmon recovery efforts in the Tucannon R.**
  
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No**
  
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **Yes, the spring is located on the outside edge of a mature cottonwood forest and the riparian enhancement is located along a newly recaptured channel of the Tucannon R., both within the 100 year floodplain.**
  
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **No.**

**b. Ground:**

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. **None**

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **None**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **None.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **None**

#### 4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

\_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs

\_\_\_\_\_ grass

\_\_\_\_\_ pasture

\_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain

\_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants, cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **No vegetation will be removed.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Snake River Steelhead (threatened), Spring Chinook (endangered), and Bull trout(threatened).**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Restoration of disturbed areas will use native grasses, shrubs, and trees.**

#### 5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. Snake River Steelhead (threatened), Spring Chinook (endangered), and Bull trout(threatened).

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- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. Migratory salmonids, including all of the ESA listed salmonids migrate and rear in the areas of this project.
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: The large wood placed in the stream as part of this project will provide habitat in the form of cover, resting pools, primary production, substrate sorting and spawning habitat. This is a restoration project, the habitat created by the log jams will be beneficial to the ESA listed salmonids as well as other native fish and wildlife found in these streams. Riparian enhancement will provide habitat for wildlife, streambank stability and shade for the stream, and future wood recruitment for stream function and instream habitat.

#### 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. None
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. No.
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any None

#### 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. Fuel for the heavy equipment will be in a controlled area away from streams and spill kits will be on hand. Fire extinguishers will be on the project site, because the project will be constructed during the dry season.
- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. None
- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: There is a level staging area about 500 feet and outside of the 100 year floodplain that will be used for all fueling, and spill kits will be on hand in case of a fuel spill.

**b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?  
Track hoe machinery for some aspects of the property will be used in the project, but the location is remote and should not affect neighboring people.

- 3) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.  
Short term noise created by machinery during daylight hours – very-minimal noises.

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- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None**

**8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Wildlife Area, adjacent properties are ranching and agriculture.**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Nearby there is agriculture, but not in the places where the project will be implemented.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **None**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **None**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Recreational**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Blue Mountain Wildlife Area Plan**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **Not applicable.**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **Not that I'm aware of, however, this is a wildlife area managed for Washington State fish and wildlife and public**



recreation. This project is a restoration project and will be extremely beneficial to the environment and ecology of the area.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None, because it won't cause displacement impacts.**

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l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: The need for Large woody debris in these streams is identified in the Snake Region Limiting Factors report, The Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, The Blue Mountain Wildlife Area Plan, and the WRIA 35 Watershed Plan.

## 9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **None**

## 10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **No Structures.**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None**

## 11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **None**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **No**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None**

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## 12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **The Wooten Wildlife Area provides recreational opportunities ranging from fishing and hunting to wildlife viewing and hiking. The adjacent Tucannon Wenaha National Forest offers the same opportunities in a wilderness area.**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None, the project will not have impacts on recreation.**

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **A cultural survey is being completed for the project.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **A cultural survey and review is being done for the project, project sponsors will follow guidelines provided by SHPO and the CTUIR tribal cultural resource professionals.**

## 14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **None**

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No**
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **None**
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No**
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **7 days 1 round trip per day.**
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None**

**15. Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **None**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None**

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None**
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. **None**

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:  .....

Date Submitted: August 5, 2009 .....

## D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.